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Broadband for Health:
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Collaboratives:
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GP-hospital
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HIV, Viral Hepatitis &
STI Education:
Michelle Wills

Immunisation:
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IM & ICT:
Chris Hayward &
Paul Macdonald

Lifescrpts:
Aimee Black

Lymphoedema:
Hari Kakouris

Mental Health:
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Nurses in GP:
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PEPA (GP Palliative
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Practice Accreditation:
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Practice Capacity for
Chronic Disease Mgmt:
Aimee Black

Primary Care Liaison:
Sonya Tremellen

Policy:
Louise Willis &
Christine Macdonald

Quality Use of
Medicines:
Lee Stamford

Refugee Health:
Annette Dupont

Star Divisions:
Helen Threlfall

Coming Events

Event	Date
<i>National GPLO Conference*</i>	<i>Wed 1 August</i>
Financial Governance	Sat 11 August
Program Orientation	Wed 15 August
CDM: Using clinical data to improve health outcomes	Thur 16 August
Collaboratives – Vic CPMs	Fri 17 August
GPDV Forum	Sun 19 August
<i>National Nursing Meeting*</i>	<i>Tues 28 & Wed 29 August</i>
<i>National Immunisation Meeting*</i>	<i>Thurs 30 August</i>

** denotes event not auspiced by GPDV*

Please send your contributions for the next Update to Vanessa Collinson
v.collinson@gpdv.com.au

Hot Topics

GPDV Statistics Package Update

Email: s.tremellen@gpdv.com.au

If you have not had a chance to look at the recently updated data tables, take a look at the [GPDV Stats Package](#).

Practice accreditation figures have been updated.

General Practice Staff Training – funding opportunities

Currently Government funding to provide staff with formal qualifications in the health industry is available. As an Australian Apprenticeships Centre the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VECCI) can assist employers, including General Practice access this funding.

The Federal Government will provide up to \$4,000 in funding to employers of trainees (both new and existing employees) in the health industry. The training can be delivered off-the-job or workplace-based, and employers have the opportunity to select an accredited training provider of their choice.

Recently the Health Training Package has been re-endorsed, and two new qualifications in Health Administration which attract Government funding (for those employees undertaking the qualification as a traineeship) are available. Certificate III and Certificate IV in Health Administration are national industry qualifications, designed specifically for employees performing administrative roles in the health industry.

For further information about eligibility and funding, contact Tim Ferguson at VECCI Apprenticeships Services on 03 8662 5312.

GP Health System Integration

GP/Hospital Communication

Lenora: l.lippmann@gpdv.com.au

The General Practice Liaison Program within the larger public hospitals has developed web based resources for GPs. A list of these pages on each hospital website is available from the GPDV website . The direct link is

www.gpdv.com.au/Documents/070726_public_hospitals_GPwebsites.pdf

The resources aim to provide GPs with information about the hospitals inpatient and out patient services, such as out patient clinics and referral information. Importantly these resources have been developed for GPs in the community by local GPs and their project team working in hospital/GP liaison.

GP Liaison is a DHS funded program to bridge the interface between hospitals and general practice to improve patient experience and outcomes. Divisions may wish to disseminate knowledge of these resources to their members to assist in this valuable work. Such activity can be reported to the commonwealth in the Domain of GPs and Hospitals.

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IM & ICT

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Review on ICT Alliances

In late June this year, the Rural and Regional Health Services Branch of DHS sought comment on the directions and mode of operation of the ICT Alliances. After consultation with rural divisions, GPDV recommended a review of the Alliance's membership pricing structure

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and suggested a meeting between the Branch and GPDV to discuss how the Alliances can improve its support of Primary Health providers in rural Victoria. A meeting has been scheduled.

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Posters for Broadband For Health

The Broadband-For-Health program has been extended until 31 December 2007. A number of practices have yet to reclaim for the incentive, we have produced a set of 3 posters that you may wish to distribute to help get the message out. To receive an electronic copy of the poster, or the full set, please contact Brendon Wickham on 03 9341 5238 or email b.wickham@gpdv.com.au.

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Chronic Disease Management: Using clinical data to improve health outcomes – 16 August

AGPN and GPDV are pleased to announce that Sheila Teasdale, Strategic Director of [PRIMIS+](#) in the UK, will be the key speaker at a workshop in Melbourne on **Thursday 16 August**, on embedding information management strategies into CDM program delivery. PRIMIS+ assists primary care to improve patient care through the effective use of their clinical computer systems, and in doing so provides education, training, support, data extraction, and analysis and feedback services to primary care in the UK. Sheila will present a number of case studies on her experience on working with general practice in the UK using data to improve health outcomes.

After Sheila's presentation there will be three 15 minute division presentations (one each from Tasmania, South Australia and Victoria) outlining local examples of data utilisation to improve health outcomes, followed by a panel discussion. The afternoon session will provide participants with the opportunity to discuss and share strategies that can be implemented now and into the future in divisions and general practice.

The workshop will be of value to CEOs and program staff responsible for the delivery of CDM and population health programs in divisions.

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Mental Health

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AGPN News

November edition of *Dynamic Divisions*

AGPN would like to devote the November edition of *Dynamic Divisions* exclusively to 'The network's mental health workers'. They are seeking stories about the mental health nurse initiative but also wish to showcase the work of other mental health staff associated with divisions.

Dynamic Divisions is distributed to all federal members of parliament, senior officers in DoHA, over 30 peak bodies, and to all divisions and SBOs. The November edition will be distributed at AGPN's national forum in Hobart.

Articles should tell a story about key mental health program or activity, include testimonials from GPs, outcome or evaluation data, and be around 400-500 words in length. Photos are encouraged. The closing date is Friday 31 August. Please forward all stories to Jane Westley at jwestley@agpn.com.au

Better Access Phase 2 Education and Training Modules

As divisions will be aware, AGPN has been contracted by the DoHA to develop and deliver an information and orientation strategy for the Better Access in Mental Health Care Initiative Phase Two. AGPN is the lead agency for the strategy and the Australian Psychological Society (APS) will be sub-contracted to develop resources for the psychology and allied mental

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health workforces, and to assist the engagement of mental health professionals in the strategy. The three modules will be:

- An Overview of Better Access for Providers;
- GP-Psychiatry Liaison: Getting it right;
- Building the local mental health team.

AGPN and APS will jointly provide train the trainer sessions in five capital cities: Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth.

Each division will be funded (accommodation and travel) for 2 facilitators, preferably a GP and a psychologist to attend the state-wide train the trainer sessions. Funding (accommodation and travel) is also provided for a division mental health project officer to attend the training. A sitting fee for the GP and, if needed, psychologist will be provided. Divisions will be funded to deliver up to two of the three education and training modules at the local level at \$2,500.00 per workshop for urban divisions, and \$3,500.00 for rural divisions.

Headspace Round 2 CYS Funding

A national forum for interested divisions to discuss the Round 2 Communities of Youth Services funding under Headspace: the National Youth Mental Health Foundation Initiative will be convened on **16 August** by AGPN in Canberra. The forum will discuss grant application processes, tips, and provide an opportunity for Round 1 divisions to share their experience with others. Divisions whom are considering making an application under Round 2 and who wish to attend this meeting should email Leanne Wells on lwells@agpn.com.au to register their interest. Attendance is on a self-funding basis only. Further details about Round 2 are available on the Headspace website on www.headspace.org.au

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DoHA News

2006-2007 12 Month Reports and Mental Health Indicator 3.1

CEOs will have received a letter from Jennie Roe, Assistant Secretary, Primary Care Practice Support Branch, Primary and Ambulatory Care Division, DoHA regarding completion of the 12 Month Reports and Annual Survey of Divisions (ASD). Of relevance, the Department is in the process of determining the appropriate data requirements for Mental Health Indicator 3.1. Further notification to divisions is pending.

MHPA Update

DoHA finalised a contract with the newly formed Mental Health Professionals Association (MHPA), comprising the APS, RACGP, RANZCP, and ACMHN, to develop clinical training modules suitable for delivery through divisions to a multidisciplinary mental health audience. It is unlikely these modules will be available until early 2008.

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GPDV News

Following direction by the GPDV Board, GPDV will prepare a Mental Health position statement over the next few months. The statement will draw on consultations with divisions and GPs on the needs and vision of general practice in delivering mental health care in the next decade. The paper will provide a complimentary document to support the forthcoming AGPN discussion paper on divisions' preferred fund holding and co-ordination roles for mental health programs.

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Primary Care Liaison

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Better Connections - Better Care

This workshop was attended by over 160 people from divisions, community health, PCPs and other stakeholder organisations. All presentations, handouts and a write-up of the afternoons small group task is available on GPDV website www.gpdv.com.au/gpdv815.htm

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Improved Population Health through systematic general practice

Aboriginal Health

Lesley: l.czulowski@gpdv.com.au

Adaptation of Lifescripts Resources for use with Indigenous Patients: call for expression of interest

The Mt Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health (MICRRH) is seeking GPs and other health professionals working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients who are interested in piloting a resource kit containing evidence based tools aimed to assist in advising Indigenous patients on how to reduce lifestyle risk factors for chronic disease.

Go to the [Lifescripts](#) section of this PC Update to view the full article including details of the honorarium available for practices and the contact details of Dr Stephanie De La Rue for further information about this trial.

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Interested in reading the "Little Children are Sacred" Report

The original Report of the NT Board of Inquiry into the Protection of Aboriginal Children from Sexual Abuse, "Little Children are Sacred" can be found at the following link: http://www.nt.gov.au/dcm/inquiry/saac/pdf/bipacsa_final_report.pdf

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NT Indigenous child health checks

The government has released more information concerning the child health checks to be undertaken in the NT. Please visit <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr07-ta-abb084.htm>

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Aboriginal Health short course

Dates: 5 day block from 26 September - 2 October 2007 (no classes on weekend)

Synopsis:

This course is prepared and run in partnership with the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO), the peak body representing the Aboriginal Organisations that deliver health care to communities in Victoria.

The aim of the course is to provide a broad overview of Aboriginal health, especially in Victoria. In particular, it will aim to provide an understanding of the historical, socio-economic and cultural contexts of ill-health in the Aboriginal community. The course will also introduce participants to the major health issues in the Aboriginal community and provide practical information about the delivery of appropriate health care and the role of community controlled health services. The participants will be provided with sources of further information and expertise about Aboriginal health in Melbourne and elsewhere in Australia.

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Aboriginal presenters will lead all sessions. The way this course is delivered differs from other courses. The process is as important as the content and students will have the opportunity to learn a new way of listening. They will have access to Aboriginal people from the community who will provide unique perspectives.

Venue: VACCHO7 Smith St, Fitzroy, 3065

Cost: AUD\$990 (individuals) AUD\$825 (ACFID members)

Enquiries & bookings: Andrea Eakins Email: andrea@burnet.edu.au Tel: +613 9282 2274
Full details at website: <http://www.burnet.internationalhealth.edu.au/education/short/abor>

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Chronic Disease Management

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Asthma

Asthma Foundation of Victoria – free seminars for health professionals

One of The Asthma Foundation of Victoria's goals is to provide information to people with asthma and those who care for them. In achieving this, free seminars for asthma Health Professionals are offered.

Asthma Update: Free seminar – Wednesday 5 September 6.30pm – 8.30pm

As part of National Asthma Week, The Asthma Foundation of Victoria will present a free seminar with ACAM Director **Assoc Prof Guy Marks** as guest speaker. Dr Guy Marks will give a presentation on 'An update on Asthma – Latest trends in asthma monitoring in Australia'. As a co author Dr Marks will present on the results from the 2004-05 National Health Survey conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics which is released every three years and provides the only nation-wide source of self reported experiences with asthma including prevalence, management, QoL and health related behaviours including the effect of social and demographic characteristics. It will be of value to all those interested in having updated information on the status of asthma in Australia, such as those involved in asthma care and government policy makers.

There is no fee to attend this Seminar. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come basis. The deadline for registrations is Wednesday 29 August 2007.

National Asthma Week 2007: 1st to 7th September - Free Resource Kit

The Asthma Foundation of Victoria has prepared a Resource Kit containing information, ideas and resources to assist Health Professionals who care for people with asthma to be involved in National Asthma Week.

Your support and involvement is greatly appreciated and will assist in increasing awareness of asthma in the community.

For further information, to download a seminar Registration Form or receive a resource kit, please visit the Asthma Foundation web site: www.asthma.org.au or contact **Jennie Raymond** via nationalasthmaweek@asthma.org.au or phone 9326 7088.

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A-Team Asthma Education Program

A group of trained asthma experts, the "A Team", are available to present the National Asthma Council Australia's asthma education workshops 'best-practice asthma management for GPs and other health professionals'.

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Workshop format:

- Hosted by a Division of General Practice in consultation with the NAC
- Presented by a GP or respiratory physician and an asthma educator
- Run as a single stand-alone session
- Attended by GPs, practice nurses, asthma educators, pharmacists and other allied health professionals.

The current workshop program:

- Focuses on the Asthma Cycle of Care (the former Asthma 3+ Visit Plan)
- Covers 2–3 additional asthma topics* chosen by the Division
- ***Lasts 2 hours and will attract RACGP CPD points (2 points per hour).***

*Additional education modules include spirometry, medications, allergy, COPD, paediatric asthma, emergency management, older adult asthma and device technique

If your Divisions would like to host a workshop:

The NAC:

- Provides all presentation material
- Coordinates and covers the costs of the presenters
- Supplies resource kits for attendees

Funding up to \$1,000 is available to assist Divisions with costs of running the event.

If you know a GP or asthma educator who would like to join the A-Team, please let them know that health professionals across Australia are wanted for the A-Team and training is provided.

For more information contact Judi Wicking at the National Asthma Council on 03 8699 0476 or email judi.wicking@nationalasthma.org.au

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Collaboratives

Catuscia: c.biuso@gpdv.com.au

Implementation of the next round of the Collaboratives Program

On 6 July DoHA released the request for tenders (RFT) for the implementation of the next round of the Australian Primary Care Collaboratives Program. The Australian Government has committed \$34.6 million to continue with this Program over the next four years.

AGPN and the SBOs recently decided to participate as an equal partner with Flinders University in a tender bid, which is due at the beginning of August 2007. All partners will be seeking advice from relevant stakeholders to inform the tender proposal. GPDV will also ensure Victorian divisions are kept informed of developments.

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Disease Prevention

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Bowel Cancer – National Bowel Cancer Screening Program

Briefing Day for divisions

The National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (NBCSP) Briefing Day for divisions was held at the Cancer Council Victoria on 27 June 2007. Representatives from 27 divisions attended the briefing, and were provided with a resource kit developed by the Cancer Council.

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Divisions who could not attend the day will be contacted individually to organise a briefing in their division. If you wish to obtain a copy of the resource kit, contact the Cancer Council's General Practice Program on 9635 5673 or general.practice@cancervic.org.au

Enquiries to DoHA

The Department of Health and Ageing has a dedicated email address to assist with enquiries about the NBCSP. Send your enquiries to the bowel cancer screening section at NBCSP.Queries@health.gov.au and they will direct your email to the most appropriate person.

Victorian implementation news

The Department of Human Services sent out a newsletter in early July to update health providers on the implementation and progress of the NBCSP in Victoria. If your division has not received a copy, please contact Hari Kakouris, Program Consultant at GPDV at h.kakouris@gpdv.com.au

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Cancer

New Cancer Council website

The Cancer Council Victoria has launched its redeveloped website at www.cancervic.org.au. Features of the new site include:

- An extensive library of information on more than 39 cancers including some of the rare ones
- The latest, evidence-based information about the prevention and detection of cancer
- Information about training and information sessions for health professionals
- Information about national cancer screening programs
- Links to treatment sites in Victoria
- Access to Cancer Council Research
- Access to support services for patients
- Multilingual cancer information

As well as a useful resource for general practice, the new website is a great tool for helping those diagnosed with cancer and their families to understand the disease, its treatment, and the support available.

Please have a look at this up dated resource and promote to your practices.

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Cervical Screening

GPDV funding has enabled practice nurses to undertake training to become accredited pap screen providers. See the full article under the [Nurses in GP](#) section.

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Men's Health

Andrology Australia – Online Men's Health Active Learning Module (ALM)

Three of four online case studies involving GP management of the reproductive health of the younger male are now available from Andrology Australia. Once complete, the four case studies will compile an Active Learning Module (accredited for 30 Category 1 RACGP points).

For further information go to:

<http://www.andrologyaustralia.org/dbOnLineEd.asp?pageCode=ONLINEEDUCATION>

or contact Taletha Groves via Taletha.Groves@med.monash.edu.au or ph: (03) 9594 7162

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Smoking

Implementing lifestyle change: smoking activities –category 2 points

The Heart Foundation NSW has developed two interactive online activities on smoking cessation, that are now available for completion in the RACGP gplearning catalogue. Each activity is case based and covers the wide ranging issues of smoking and how health professionals can help patients Quit.

The activities will compliment the use of Lifescrpts resources in general practice, and cover issues such as:

- The effects of smoking on the body
- Identifying the 'stage of behavioural change'
- Using the '5As' to assist in your clinical management
- Therapy selection: pros & cons

For further information, please visit the RACGP gplearning site at www.gplearning.com.au or contact gplearning Help Desk: Freecall: 1800 284 789 or email: contactus@gplearning.com.au

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HIV, Viral Hepatitis & STI Education

Michelle: m.wills@gpdv.com.au

“You never know who you’ll meet” safe sex campaign

On the 14 June the Minister for Health, Bronwyn Pike recently launched the “You never know who you’ll meet” safe sex campaign plus the Victorian Government's five-point action plan to provide an immediate response to enhancing HIV and sexually transmissible infection (STI) prevention efforts.

“You never know who you’ll meet” is aimed at 18 to 25 year olds who are at risk of sexually transmissible infections (STIs) and seeks to raise awareness of infections, increase safe sex behaviours, including condom use and the importance of regular STI check ups.

The ‘You never know who you’ll meet’ campaign is a component of the *Victorian Sexually Transmissible Infections (STI) Strategy 2006-2009*, which provides an integrated framework to build on and improve sexual and reproductive health. Focus group testing has indicated the campaign has a relevant, edgy message that cuts through and makes the link to safe sex and condom use for 18 to 25 year olds. Advertisements are currently on youth radio; cinema; papers; Beat, Inpress, MX, Cosmopolitan and Ralph magazines; with posters and postcards being distributed in youth oriented venues including TAFE and universities; and banner advertisements on RSVP and other websites. Over a ten-week period on Friday and Saturday nights, a team of young people will be “hitting” popular youth nightspots and venues to promote the campaign’s safe sex message and hand out condoms with information cards.

Concerning increases in STIs

The 2006 DHS surveillance data indicates STI’s are continuing to rise each year in Victoria, with:

- 10,019 cases of Chlamydia trachomatis, the most highly notified STI in Victoria **this indicates a 207% rise in infection from the year 2000 to 2006;**
- 1,309 notified cases of gonorrhoea;
- 234 cases of syphilis; and
- 263 cases of HIV.

Chlamydia

In Australia in 2005, there were approximately 41,000 chlamydia notifications and national notifications have been increasing at a rate of about 20 per cent per year, 65% of infections diagnosed in women are amongst those aged 15 to 24 years.

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Three groups are identified as priority target groups for annual chlamydia testing. These groups are young heterosexual men and women, 16 to 25 years of age, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and men who have sex with men. Of particular concern is that chlamydia has also been associated with an increased risk for transmission of other STIs including the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). STIs can facilitate HIV transmission by increasing either the infectiousness of the index case, the susceptibility of the partner, or both.

Chlamydia is known as a 'silent infection' as it is often asymptomatic and can cause pelvic inflammatory disease, chronic pain, ectopic pregnancies, and infertility. Due to the asymptomatic feature of chlamydia the true prevalence in Victoria is not known.

GP's are encouraged to undertake annual chlamydia testing for sexually active 16 to 25 year olds because chlamydia is in many cases asymptomatic and in high rates in this age group.

Further information

A [poster](#) is available for this campaign.

Visit the [Better Health Channel safe sex site](#) and www.health.vic.gov.au/ideas for information, or contact Karen O'Neill, of the Blood Borne Virus and Sexually Transmissible Infection Program, Public Health, on (03) 9096 0368.

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Release of the Victorian Health management plan for pandemic influenza

The Victorian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza (VHMPPI) is now available. This plan builds upon the foundation established by the Victorian Influenza Pandemic Plan (November 2005) and plans developed by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing and the Australian Government Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources in consultation with the states and Territories.

The VHMPPI aims to provide an effective health response framework to minimise the morbidity and mortality associated with an influenza pandemic and its impact on the Victorian community, health care system and economy.

The revised plan includes further preparedness and response strategies with particular emphasis on hospital management of suspected and proven cases, clinical guidance for primary care providers, isolation and quarantine of suspected/confirmed cases, mass vaccination as well as the use of personal protective equipment and antiviral medication.

The VHMPPI is available on the department's website at: http://www.health.vic.gov.au/ideas/regulations/vic_influenza

The following fact sheets are also available:

- Seasonal/Avian/Pandemic influenza (flu) – Information for the general public
- Pandemic influenza (flu) – Information for the general public – looking after yourself in a pandemic
- Pandemic influenza (flu) – Information for people who may have been exposed to pandemic influenza and are isolated

This information complements other information available for pandemic influenza and is linked to the department's Pandemic Influenza website at: <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/pandemicinfluenza/>. This site contains information on how to prepare for an influenza pandemic for health professionals, business, government and the community.

Should you require any further information on the VHMPPI please contact Elizabeth Birbilis on (03) 9096 5220 or elizabeth.birbilis@dhs.vic.gov.au

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Immunisation

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A new system for reporting significant adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) in both children and adults.

A new Victorian program 'Surveillance of Adverse Effects Following Vaccination In the Community' (SAEFVIC) has been developed. The service is available to all immunisation providers, including nurse immunisers. Reporting to SAEFVIC can be made by telephone, fax, and online.



It is not a service for the general public to contact.

What is SAEFVIC?

- SAEFVIC is a new part of the Victorian Immunisation Program funded by the Department of Human Services — Victoria
- This specialist service has been established to help manage children and adults who have had an AEFI
- Specialised clinics are based at the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH), Monash Medical Centre (MMC) and the Royal Melbourne Hospital (RMH)

Do all adverse events following immunisation need to be reported?

- Do not routinely report common/minor reactions, however;
- Any event felt to be significant following immunisation should be notified
- Any vaccine reaction which has affected a family's confidence in future immunisation should be reported
- This enables careful safety monitoring of immunisation reactions in Victoria and individualised clinical assistance for families affected by an AEFI

The aim of the service is to:

1. Provide expert, timely advice and assistance re AEFI to immunisation providers
2. Review people who have had a serious adverse event following immunisation if requested
3. Determine whether or not remaining scheduled vaccinations should be administered; and
4. Provide an environment in which further vaccinations can be given, including:
 - o Close observation
 - o Information about risk and benefits of vaccination, and
 - o Specialist treatment in the event an adverse event reoccurs.

Further information about SAEFVIC will be available soon for all immunisation providers.

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Lifescritps

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Results from 'Making a Difference. Report of the 2005-2006 Annual Survey of Divisions'

Results from 'Making a Difference. Report of the 2005-2006 Annual Survey of Divisions' indicated that 76% of all Divisions across Australia engaged in Lifescritps activities. Victorian data indicates that 83.3% of all Victorian Divisions engaged in some form of Lifescritps activity. The majority of this activity was GP education, practice support, community awareness raising and collaborative work with other organisations.

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This data re-enforces what GPDV already knew to be a high level of interest and commitment by Victorian Divisions to addressing lifestyle risk factor management as a part of core business. We hope to see this trend continue and will continue to provide support and opportunities for Divisions to undertake work in this area.

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Adaptation of Lifescripts Resources for use with Indigenous Patients: call for expression of interest

The Mt Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health (MICRRH) is seeking GPs and other health professionals working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients who are interested in piloting a resource kit containing evidence based tools aimed to assist in advising Indigenous patients on how to reduce lifestyle risk factors for chronic disease.

The pilot will take place the practice over one day and will involve a 30 minute training session on use of the resource, delivery of the brief intervention to eligible patients, completion of a survey by the health professionals involved and 5-10 minute patient interviews after the consultations.

An honorarium of \$1,500 is available for practices undertaking this pilot. MICRRH is seeking two rural mainstream general practices outside Queensland and up to two Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services.

If you know of GPs who may be interested in being involved in this trial, please contact Dr. Stephanie De La Rue on 07 4744 7913 or via stephanie.delarue@jcu.edu.au.

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Lymphoedema

Hari: h.kakouris@gpdv.com.au

GP resource now available

Printed copies of a simple guide to the diagnosis and management of lymphoedema in general practice are now available from GPDV. The guide includes a step-by-step algorithm to assist GPs in identifying patients with the condition who present in general practice, as well as advice on general management principles and referral options.

GPDV are keen to discuss dissemination strategies for this resource with each division in order to maximise its reach in general practice in Victoria. If you would like further information about this resource, please contact Hari Kakouris at h.kakouris@gpdv.com.au

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Nurses in GP

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Practice Nurses as accredited pap screen providers

GPDV funding has enabled practice nurses to undertake training to become accredited pap screen providers. A recent report by the Victorian Cervical Cytology Registry* includes data shows a significant increase in the number of pap tests being collected by nurses, with results continuing to indicate tests are performed to high quality.

The number of Pap tests collected by nurses has more than doubled over the past 10 years, with 16,035 recorded in 2006, compared with 7,155 in 1997. Of those collected by nurses in 2006, 80.3% were reported as including an endocervical component compared with 77.2% of all Pap tests taken.

The report also indicates that nurses are reaching more older women. Figures show the proportion of Pap tests collected by nurses for 60 to 69 year old women sits at 15.2%, compared with 9.7% for all Pap tests taken.

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Further key statistics published in the report:

- In 2006, a total of 16,035 Pap tests were collected by nurses, from a total of 572,757 Pap tests taken by all Pap test providers. This figure represents 2.8% of all Pap tests taken in Victoria.
- By comparison, in 1997, nurses collected 7,155 Pap test (so between 1997 and 2006, the number taken by nurses has more than doubled).
- Of Pap tests collected by nurses in 2006, 80.3% were reported as including an endocervical component, compared with 77.2% for all Pap tests taken.
- Compared with all Victorian Pap test providers, nurses collected a higher proportion of Pap tests from women whose screening interval had exceeded two years.
- Nurses conduct Pap tests in a variety of settings, with the majority of tests in 2006 conducted in General Practice or a community health setting.

** Evaluation Of Pap Tests Collected By Nurses In Victoria During 2006, prepared by the Victorian Cervical Cytology Registry, March 2007.*

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New MBS Item number for Practice Nurses

From 1 July 2007 MBS item 10997 will apply to the provision of monitoring and support to people with a chronic disease by a practice nurse or registered Aboriginal Health Worker (only NT) on behalf of a GP. This will assist patients who require access to ongoing care, routine treatment and ongoing monitoring and support between more structured reviews of a care plan by a patient's GP.

To be eligible to claim item 10997 a patient must have a GP Management Plan, Team Care Arrangements or Multidisciplinary Care Plan (Medicare Benefits Schedule items 721, 723, 725, 727, 729 or 731) in place. Medicare Australia will not pay item 10997 for a patient where one of these items has not been paid in the last year.

Item 10997 may be used to provide:

- checks on clinical progress;
- monitoring medication compliance;
- self management advice, and;
- collection of information to support GP reviews of Care Plans.

The services provided by the practice nurse should be consistent with the scope of the GP Management Plan, Team Care Arrangements or Multidisciplinary Care Plan.

In all cases, the GP (who is responsible for the health, safety and clinical outcomes of the patient) must be satisfied that the practice nurse or registered Aboriginal Health Worker is appropriately qualified and trained to provide monitoring and support for patients with chronic a disease. The practice nurse or registered Aboriginal Health Worker must also comply with any relevant legislative or regulatory requirements.

Continuing professional development is recommended for practice nurses and registered Aboriginal Health Workers providing this service. General practices, where practice nurses or registered Aboriginal Health Workers provide monitoring and support to people with a chronic disease, should also have a written clinical risk management strategy covering issues like clinical roles, pathology follow-up and patient consent.

The summary page can be found at

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/MBSOnline-News-2007-07-01-JulySupp>

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Dynamic Divisions

AGPN has published a special Nursing in General Practice issue of Dynamic Divisions. This edition showcases local programs that are being undertaken by Divisions across the country. Four Victorian divisions have been featured:

- Whitehorse Division of General Practice:
nurse-led services assisting patients with chronic and complex health needs
- Otway Division of General Practice:
nursing in general practice four year reflection
- Greater South Eastern Division of General Practice:
practice nurse leaders provides vital support
- Eastern Ranges GP Association:
practice nurse leaders a valuable addition to the Nursing in General Practice Program

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National Mentoring Pilot Program from AGPN

AGPN have made some adjustments to the scheduled training programs:

- Mentor training will continue as planned in the following states: Brisbane 19-20th July, Melbourne 26 -27th July, and Perth 16- 17th August.
- The scheduled mentee training programs for Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth, have been postponed. Mentees who have registered will be provided with an initial training program via teleconference and rescheduled to a face to face training program in September/October. Mentees who have registered will be advised of these changes.
- Practice nurses interested in becoming involved in the 1:1 formal program should continue to be encouraged to register with the Australian Mentor Centre.
- Subject to demand it is planned to schedule additional training programs for mentors and training programs for mentees in September/October. Further information will be provided in the near future.

Arrangements for the mentoring groups and circles will continue as advertised.

For further information on mentoring call the Australian Mentor Centre on 1800 100 848.

1:1 mentoring program

Registrations for the 1:1 mentoring program, mentoring circles and groups are still being accepted. For further information and to download the registration forms go to the [AGPN website](#). The [promotional flyer](#) is also available on the site.

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National Divisions Nursing in General Practice Forum

Over 140 delegates have now registered for the National Divisions Nursing in General Practice Forum in Coffs Harbour on the 28th and 29th August.

The program is being finalised and will include 7 sessions from Divisions showcasing innovative work, as well as a range of keynote speakers and concurrent sessions. The program will be posted on the AGPN NiGP website in the next few weeks.

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Nurse Board Victoria News

Health Professions Registration Amendment Bill 2007

On 1 July 2007, the new Health Professions Registration Act 2005 (HPRA) came into effect. After extensive consultation by the Nurses Board of Victoria and other health professionals, several

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important amendments to the HPRA were recently passed by both houses of parliament.

The amendment Bill was given the final approval on 26 June 2007 and is now law.

The key amendments are:

- registration of nursing students is discretionary
- publishing a registered nurse's employment or postal address on the public register is discretionary.

The Board has decided:

- not to proceed with student registration. Students that have already submitted applications will be contacted shortly.
- not to publish a registered nurse's employment or postal address on the public register.

Another key amendment is related to recency of practice.

Recency of practice remains at 2 years however the amendment bill allows the Board, after a consultation process, to request from the Minister of Health a change to the regulations to allow for a longer period. More information will be posted on the website shortly.

Further details on the Amendment Bill and the HPRA will be published in the next issue of Nexus soon.

The Nurses Board of Victoria is in the process of updating their website, policies and procedures to comply with the Health Professions Registration Act 2005. Please contact the Board on 03 8635 1200 if you have any queries on this matter.

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APNA NEWS

APNA Career Centre NOW ONLINE!

Dedicated to practice nurses, the new APNA Career Centre is a fully self-managed Job Board which allows nurses to create a personalised profile including resume, and then browse and apply for positions online at any time. APNA members can quickly and easily sign up online using their existing APNA website login and many of their details will be pre-populated for them. We aim to have lots of job posts active by the end of the month so be sure to check regularly.

APNA Discussion Board

An online forum dedicated to practice nurses sharing their experiences and insights has just been added to the APNA website. This has the potential to be a great user-driven resource for practice nurses to network and we encourage all members to post issues and share their knowledge!

Online subscription and renewal for APNA Memberships is now fully functional with our secure online payment service, making it quick and easy to renew your membership or sign up online www.apna.asn.au

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Information contained within this publication is for the use and benefit of all members of SBOs and Divisions, please feel free to extract whole or parts of this newsletter to benefit other interested parties with information sharing. If SBOs, Divisions and other readers have information for, or comments regarding the Primary Care Updates Program please contact Vanessa Collinson (details above).

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